



# COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 13

"WHERE PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY"



## CLB-13 FAMILY READINESS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 3

June 2009

### AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP HITS THE BEACH

Written by 1stLt Kimberly Dizon



It was nearly midnight on the 22nd of May when the first landing craft hit Arta Beach in the small African nation of Djibouti. Twenty-six CLB-13 Marines with sixteen BMU Sailors departed LCU 1617 and headed ashore on the darkest night of the month. Over the next six hours, four more crafts landed in the gravelly red sand disembarking the remaining CLB and Bravo Company Marines and Sailors from the USS COMSTOCK.

Under a jet black sky, the S-3 and Communications Marines began assembling the Combat Operations Center (COC), the hub for information and mission planning. With the first convoy set to depart in only a few hours, the Communications Marines were diligently working to establish connectivity using state-of-the-art electronic devices. Alongside the COC, our dedicated Corpsman erected their own tented area to receive any personnel in need of medical attention. Complete with air conditioning and lighting, the Battalion Aid Station provided all the necessary personnel and equipment to take care of the Marines in the field.



At 0800 that morning, the first convoy departed the beach en route to Camp Lemonnier, a local multi-service Supply and Logistics Base on the eastern tip of the country. The small group of three vehicles traversed rocky dirt roads and narrow, congested highways before reaching their destination several hours later. Avoiding goats, locals, camels, and pot holes, the convoy arrived safely and on time for the pick-up of ammunition, ice and lumber.

Returning to Arta Beach before sunset, the convoy drivers, vehicle commanders and passengers grabbed chow and bunked down for the night; each ensuring to receive some much needed rest in order to safely execute the following day's re-supply missions. But as the sticky hot days turned into even warmer nights, many Marines and Sailors found themselves perspiring rather than resting. As Communications Marine Sergeant Nate Cuellar described it "Every night as I tried to sleep, I found myself lying in a puddle of sweat." We all hoped it would not get any hotter.

Over the next two days, the Battalion ran daily convoys to supply Bravo and Alpha Companies with fuel, water, ammunition and refuse disposal. The Military Police Detachment, led by Sergeants Mike Roberts and Joel Peters successfully executed M240B and M249 machine gun training in the dimming light of the early evening on the second day. On the last full day of operations, a final convoy departed Arta Beach and headed towards Camp Lemonnier while Marines on the beach began packing their gear for the return to the USS Comstock.

Well before the sun rose on May 26th, CLB-13 Marines and Sailors were already staged on the shore awaiting the first craft to take them back to running water, hot showers, good food and a soft, cool place to sleep. Landing Support Marines, led by Corporals Chantry Holdman and Michael Croft, kept the flow of vehicles and personnel flowing smoothly as LCUs continued to stab the beach. By noon, Arta Beach was empty and local Djiboutians began streaming in as the final LCU moved slowly away from land and headed back towards the ship. Africa soon became a hazy brown mass on the horizon as we cruised through the dark blue water.



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**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

**CLB 13 Family Readiness Officer (MSgt Maurice Anderson) ..... Office:(760)763-0486    Cell:: (760) 468-7618**

1st MLG Family Readiness Coordinator (Marianne Espinoza).....(760) 763-3208

Animal Shelter .....	725-8120
American Red Cross, Bldg. H-100 (Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton).....	725-3303
American Red Cross (TOLL FREE).....	(800) 733-2767
Base Chaplain .....	725-4700
Base Housing Office, Bldg. 1138.....	725-5995 / 5217
Base Legal, Bldg. 22161 .....	725-6172
Consolidated Substance Abuse Counseling Center (CSACC) Main Office, Bldg. 16105 .....	725-5538 / 725-5539
Commissary (near main gate).....	430-1701
Commissary (Seaside Square .....	725-7136 / 430-1701
Community Support Branch Headquarters, Bldg. 13150 .....	725-6638
Counseling Services, Bldg. 1122.....	725-9051
Debt Consolidation .....	725-6098 / 6209
DEERS (Dependent Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System) located at JRC .....	725-2442
Devil Pups (Youth Program).....	(805) 497-9810
DMV (Oceanside) .....	(800) 777-0133
ID Cards .....	725-2442
Information & Referral ( <u>best number</u> for any questions about services on Camp Pendleton).....	725-3400 / (800) 253-1624
JRC (Joint Reception Center) Vehicle Registration / Pass and ID, Bldg. 130132.....	725-2106
Movie Theatre, Movie Listings at <a href="http://www.MccsCP.com">www.MccsCP.com</a> .....	725-9217
Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton .....	725-1288
Naval Hospital Balboa (San Diego) .....	(619) 532-6400
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Bldg. 1121 .....	725-5337
North County Transit District.....	(800) 266-6883
Pacific Plaza Pharmacy .....	(866) 286-8249
Post Office 11 Area .....	725-5832
PMO / Military Police (Desk Sergeant), Bldg. 1523 .....	725-3888 / 763-2077
Recreation Checkout, San Luis Rey, Bldg. 1713.....	725-5296 (Fax 725-8160)
Relocation Office .....	725-3802 / 5704
Scout Newspaper, Bldg. 1160 .....	725-9376
Sea Breeze Shuttle.....	(866) 827-3393
Thrift Store.....	725-1800
Ticket Offices (ITT), Mainside, Bldg. 1339.....	725-5864 (Fax 725-5834)
Ticket Offices (ITT), Del Mar, Bldg. 210636.....	725-2218 (Fax 725-2250)
TMO, Bldg. 2263 .....	725-8177 / 8164
Tricare .....	(888) 874-9378
Veterans Administration, Bldg. 13150 .....	385-0416
VITA, (Tax Services) Bldg. 1687 .....	763-2518
YMCA, Bldg. 16144 .....	385-4921

**ALL NUMBERS ARE 760 AREA CODE UNLESS OTHERWISE LISTED**



## COMMENTS FROM THE COMMAND DECK



### From the Commanding Officer, LtCol Keith Reventlow



Greetings families and friends of CLB-13!

The Marines and Sailors of the Battalion continue to do a great job supporting our operations and exercises. At this time none of the ships are supporting counter-piracy operations and all are focused on MEU events.

The Marines and Sailors from the USS Comstock and USS New Orleans recently finished up Amphibious Ready Group Exercise or ARGEX in Djibouti. This four day exercise provided the Battalion the opportunity to conduct sustainment training and to provide Combat Service Support to BLT 1/1.

As most of you are probably aware, one of our Marines, Sgt Joel Peters was a passenger in a HMMWV military ambulance that was involved in a single vehicle accident. After treatment at the Medical Facility at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti he was evacuated to the Army Medical Facility in Landstuhl, Germany. He was recently transferred to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

where he is in the ICU and in serious condition. He remains sedated and is revived periodically to help with the neurological exams. Sedation is necessary in order to keep him stable and allow his body a chance to heal. Sgt Peters' family is at his bedside and they were visited by President Obama on 1 June which did a lot to help raise their spirits. I ask that you take the opportunity to send a long a card or letter to his family, your support will go a long way helping them get through this tragic situation.

Now that we're approaching the home stretch the Boxer is in port conducting their agriculture wash down of their vehicles and equipment. Comstock and New Orleans will begin theirs shortly. In this addition of the newsletter you will find our proposed schedule for the remainder of our deployment. As always these dates are for your planning purposes but are subject to change.

The men and women of CLB-13 continue to do a great job in all that they do. We appreciate your continued support from home and we look forward to returning and reuniting with our families and friends soon.

### Sergeant Major Sounds Off..., SgtMaj Rob Baker



Friends and Families of CLB-13, the month of May was another busy one for your Marines and Sailors. Your loved ones continue to impress at every endeavor and you can surely be proud of their accomplishments.

On May 8th we celebrated Military Spouse Appreciation Day and, of course, Mother's Day was celebrated on May 10th. These are two special days where we reflect on the importance of ones we love and those who help us to achieve the successes we attain in our military careers. Please accept my sincere appreciation for what you do for the Marines and Sailors of CLB-13. Your support from home means everything to us. And the support has been outstanding, as evident in the volume of mail received.

As the Commanding Officer mentioned in the above article, Sergeant Joel Peters, one of our Military Police

Marines, was injured in a vehicle accident and is now hospitalized in Bethesda, Maryland. I ask for your continued prayers and support for our injured Marine and his family as he receives the best care the military can offer.

The family has set up a "blogspot" where Sgt Peters' journey to recovery is being documented. Please visit::

[www.sgtjoelpeters.blogspot.com](http://www.sgtjoelpeters.blogspot.com)

#### Letters of support can be sent to:

Marine Corps Liaison Office  
Attn: Sgt Peters 13th MEU CLB-13  
National Naval Medical Center  
Building 10, Room 1022  
8901 Wisconsin Avenue  
Bethesda, Maryland 20889

Semper Fidelis,

*SgtMaj Rob Baker*



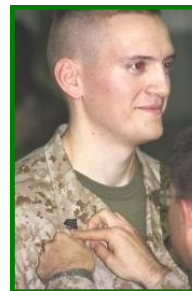
## May Promotions



**Cpl Bornn**



**Cpl Sansouci**



**Sgt Waldrup**



**SSgt Morris**



**Cpl O'Bryant**



**Sgt Williams**

## May Reenlistments



**HN Sansone**



**Sgt Anderson**

## May Awards



**LCpl Mayes receives Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal**



**Cpl Martin receives Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal**

## NOT QUITE THE 21 DAY MENU...

Written by 1stLt Kelsey Duckworth

There is never a lack of food at meal time on the USS Comstock. What to eat for each meal is always a tough choice for the Marines and Sailors on board. Every lunch and dinner, offers two main courses, soup, cooked vegetables, a type of starch, an abundance of salad fixings, fresh fruit, and of course everyone's favorite--dessert. And if by some chance none of this is appealing on a certain day, there is the ever present peanut butter, jelly, and bread waiting to be made into a sandwich.



Marines and Sailors on board USS Comstock have seen chicken cooked in more ways than thought possible from your basic fried or baked chicken, to chicken chili with white beans, to chicken cordon blue, to spinach stuffed carver chicken, to chicken corn chowder and the list goes on and on. Every dish is appetizing in it's own special way. Take for instance the hamburger patty, which is served very predictably for every lunch on Wednesday; it looks very similar to the Swiss steak patty covered in brown gravy. This same patty also tends to appear again when Salisbury steak is on the menu. And even though the patty is breaded and fried in chicken fried steak, it again bears a strong resemblance to the hamburger patty served on Wednesdays.

There is a fairly consistent pattern for certain meals on the ship. The most important one being a Steel Beach picnic every Sunday while the ship is underway. Different groups host the picnic each Sunday, and they always include plenty of food, sun, and fresh air. So far this deployment, on every Saturday night but one, pizza has been on the menu. The pizza might not look the same every Saturday, but there is some form of pizza served whether it's a little round personal size pizza, a huge rectangular pan full of square pieces, or maybe a large round pizza that looks very similar to DiGiorno. There is also the popular Taco Day. Taco Day has a tendency to fall on Tuesday, so it can be affectionately known as Taco Tuesday. Kind of like the varying pizza, the meat choice for the tacos might be plain ground beef, chicken or beef fajitas, deliciously seasoned pork, and for the vegetarians there are always refried beans. These special days give the Marines and Sailors something to look forward to throughout the busy week.

Not only do the Marines and Sailors on USS Comstock get three square meals a day, sometimes there is even a SUPPO's (Navy Supply Officer) Surprise in the evening. There have been three variations on the SUPPO's Surprise so far in the deployment. First is the Ice Cream Social. Varying flavors of ice cream are scooped out of huge cartons of ice cream, and then a range of toppings from caramel and marshmallow sauce to cherries and peanuts and chocolate chips can be added. Second is Nacho Night. The cooks on board make the nachos from scratch, and they are simply delicious. The nachos are served with melted cheese, ground beef, sour cream, salsa, and jalapeños. If luck is with the crew, there will be leftover nachos which will get served during the following day's lunch. Third is the candy and soda give away. This one is fairly self explanatory. There are various types of candy and sodas on the mess decks for Marines and Sailors to enjoy. SUPPO's Surprises are always well attended and enjoyed events.



### USS COMSTOCK CORPORALS COURSE



CLASS 1-09



### Corporal's Course Graduates

The following CLB-13 Marines graduated from the Corporal's Course on-board the USS Comstock in May.

Cpl Michael C. Croft (Honor Graduate)

Cpl Kyle E. Flerchinger

Cpl Andrew D. Hernandez

Cpl Michael D. Krider

Cpl Jorge L. Leal

Cpl Jay C. Miller

Cpl Edgar A. Munoz

Cpl Amanda E. Roper

Cpl Michael C. Seichter

Cpl James M. Walker

The motivated Corporals of Marines were well-led during the course by CLB-13 Squad Advisors: Sergeant Jennifer Havens and Sergeant Joseph Savasta.

## FROM THE FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

CLB-13 Families, we are off to a running start as we “gear up” for the return of our Marines and Sailors. Many of you will be attending the homecomings in the near future, so please keep my contact info handy as it will be your primary resource for the latest updates on arrivals. I will provide you with information on where and when to meet your Marine or Sailor and I will be updated as the time nears for their arrival. I would suggest emailing or calling me to ensure you have the latest update on your Marine or Sailor. Please remember to check with your Marine or Sailor to confirm whether or not they will be coming home on an advanced party or main body.

I am truly excited to meet all of you at the homecoming and hope to see you at one of our events prior to your Marine or Sailor's return. Details for our **Return and Reunion Brief** and **Banner Making Party** will be sent out via flier and information will also be available on the CLB-13 website. I hope you can join us, please let me know how I can assist you with resources if you will be returning to the area to stay or just coming for a visit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by phone: 760 763-0486 or email: [maurice.anderson@usmc.mil](mailto:maurice.anderson@usmc.mil) with any questions you may have. Additionally my office is always open to our families. I am located in the CLB -13 Headquarters Building #1244, on the 1st floor of the building in room #108.

I look forward to meeting you and helping to welcome your loved one home!

Semper Fidelis,

*Maurice L. Anderson*

CLB-13 Family Readiness Officer

Email: [maurice.anderson@usmc.mil](mailto:maurice.anderson@usmc.mil)

Family Readiness website: [www.imef.usmc.mil/mlg/clr17/clb-13/familyreadiness/default.asp](http://www.imef.usmc.mil/mlg/clr17/clb-13/familyreadiness/default.asp)

Work : 760 763-0486 Cell: 760 468-7618 Fax: 760 763-1777

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN JUNE:**

June 1st: OLD NAVY Military Appreciation Day Sale

June 4th: Communications and Conflict Resolution at the Serra Mesa Community Center (0830—1030)

June 5th: Combat / Operational Stress Workshop at the Counseling Services Bldg 1122 (0730—1130)

June 10th: Anger Management Class, Bldg 520512 (0800—1100)

**June 11th: CLB-13 Family Readiness Meeting at 1830** Location: CLB-13 HQ Conference Room Bldg 1244

June 12th: Combat / Operational Stress Workshop at the Counseling Services Bldg 1122 (0730—1130)

**June 13th: CLB-13 Family Event:** Make your own ceramics / Movie Night at Arts & Crafts Center (1000—1500)

June 16th: Savings / Investment Class at Bldg 13150

June 18th: Stress Management Class at the Serra Mesa Community Center (0830—1200)

June 19th: Combat / Operational Stress Workshop at the Counseling Services Bldg 1122 (0730—1130)

**June 21st: FATHER'S DAY!**

June 25th: Power Workshop at the Counseling Services Bldg 1122 (0800—1200)

June 26th: Combat / Operational Stress Workshop at the Counseling Services Bldg 1122 (0730—1130)

**CONTACT THE FAMILY READINESS OFFICER FOR MORE INFO**



## THE "RED-PATCHERS" OF CLB-13

Written by Corporal Michael Croft



The Landing Support Detachment of Combat Logistics Battalion 13 plays a mostly unseen, yet vital part in supporting the operations conducted during this deployment. From running port operations in San Diego, to controlling beach operations in foreign countries, Landing Support Marines are responsible for moving cargo and personnel from the one place to another, and back again. Distinguished by their infamous red patches on their uniform, they stand out amongst the best of the best.

When it came time to get all the Marine Corps equipment loaded onto our three ships, this Detachment of less than twenty Marines went to work. With detailed planning, outstanding leadership, and solid communication, the Marines utilized multiple locations along the port in San Diego to take all the gear brought from Camp Pendleton and place it onto the USS BOXER, COMSTOCK, and NEW ORLEANS. They worked from sun up until after sundown to complete their mission – in just four days. When the Comstock had to be off loaded to run more tests and certifications, they were there again to get the job done quickly and efficiently, and of course once again to get it all back on-board.



Besides being responsible for loading and unloading the ships at port, the Landings Support Marines are in charge of off-loading and on-loading personnel and their gear for each mission the MEU is tasked with during the deployment. If Marines and their gear are leaving the ship, the Landing Support Marines will be leaving as well. When the LCUs, LCACs, helicopters, and/or planes hit the deck, Red Patchers will be the first on the ground and the last to leave, ensuring all cargo and personnel get where they need to go quickly and safely, while keeping accountability of everything.

The Landing Support Marines also conduct Helicopter Support Teams (HSTs). This is when gear is lifted via helicopter by an external hook. This could be anything from MREs and fuel cells, to larger equipment such as the artillery guns that were lifted by the USS BOXER Landing Support Marines in Guam, during the early months of the deployment.

Outside of their MOS specific missions, these Marines support the operations by standing multiple guard duties, participating in convoys, cross training with the other logistic detachments, and other infantry units. They are also trained to conduct Evacuation Control Centers (ECCs) where they could process and evacuate personnel in the event of a disaster or crisis situation.

Whether they are doing their specific MOS related work or supporting the MEU with other various tasks, the Landing Support Marines strive to accomplish their mission to the highest Marine Corps standards. Next time you hear someone ask, "Who are those guys with the Red Patches?" and hear some ridiculous response such as "underwater snipers" you can explain to them what these Warriors really bring to the fight!

## STEPPING IT UP ABOARD THE USS COMSTOCK

Written by the Editor



On the USS COMSTOCK, physical training (PT) is a daily routine; however some of the sessions are a little different than the normal well-deck runs and elliptical work-outs. Five days a week Staff Sergeant Colleen Wilcox, the Radio Chief for CLB-13, holds a step aerobics class on the flight deck during the high heat of the afternoon. With speakers blaring and her microphone on full volume, Staff Sergeant Wilcox can be heard from the O-7 level of the ship. Her students sweat and step for an hour until the music finally fades to a dull roar and the class begins to stretch it out.

Staff Sergeant Wilcox has been a certified Primary Group Exercise Instructor since 2005. She is certified through one of the nation's largest fitness corporations, Aerobics Fitness Association of America (AFAA). Currently, only ten students can attend the class at this time due to a minimum number of steps, however, that does not keep extra participants from joining in. Some steppers can be seen hopping along to the beat with their feet flat on the deck and no step in sight. Step aerobics is not just about the rubber and plastic step used to boost the workout. As long as everyone keeps moving with knees high and arms swinging, then Step Aerobics is accomplishing its mission of improved cardiovascular fitness.

The hour long class includes 40 minutes of cardio, 10 minutes of abs and 10 minutes of toning. Over the past few months, the intense workouts have inspired Marines and Sailors to step up to the challenge of continued fitness and achieving higher personal goals. With the upbeat music, the sun beaming down on the class, and calories slipping away, anyone is sure to have a good time during these PT sessions!



## NEW FLEET MARINE FORCE WARRIORS



From left to right: HN (FMF) Langsteiner, HM3 (FMF) Sansone, HM3 (FMF) Griffith, HM2 (FMF) Bumbard, HMC (FMF) Floyd, HN (FMF) Mielcarek, HM1 (FMF/SW) Gundino, HM1 (SW/FMF) Bowman and HMC (SW/FMF) Carter. Kneeling: HM2 (FMF) Secody

After many months of hard work and dedication, the CLB-13 Sailor's aboard the USS Comstock were able to attain the coveted Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Device. All of the Sailor's worked hard for this warfare specialist device and showed true grit in keeping focused on the prize. With demanding pre-deployment work ups and numerous exercises while deployed, they showed the desire and determination to achieve this great accomplishment. Each Sailor showed when working as a Team, all things can be accomplished. These Sailors were fortunate to attain this goal with Command Master Chief Kel Carter (USS Comstock) as the Board Chairman. Command Master Chief Carter was instrumental in writing the program for the FMF qualifications from the start in 2000. With the help of FMF qualified Sailor's stationed onboard the USS Comstock, seven Sailor's were able to attain their dream of wearing the Fleet Marine Force Device. They would like to say thank you to the following personnel that assisted with the board: CDMMC (SW/FMF) Kel Carter, HMC (SW/FMF) Phil Nafus, HMC (FMF) Barry N Floyd, HM1 (FMF/SW/PJ) Reggie Demapelis, HM1 (SW/FMF) Jennifer Bowman, HM2 (FMF) Richie Secody, HM2 (SW/FMF) Jayson Lazaro.

## EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL NEWS



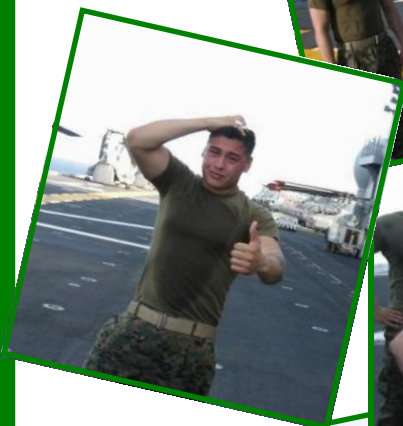
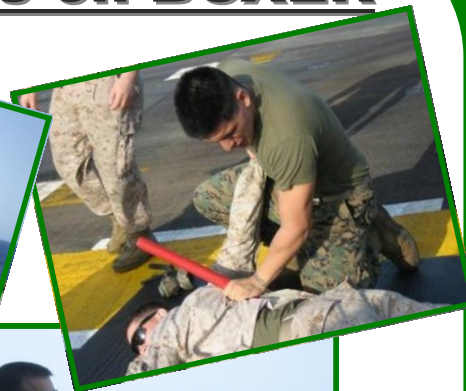
**MSgt Mannon sends;** I wanted to provide a quick run down for the EOD Section's family members on what their Marines and Sailors have been up to. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal section has kept relatively busy by supporting nearly every 13th MEU/ARG operation and exercise as well as a few from other commands. I will skip the liberty calls as most of you have heard from loved ones while they were at each.

From supporting Counter Piracy Operations to building relations and EOD capabilities with regional partners to eating camel burgers, the EOD Section has been there. Here is a run down of what the section has been up to; SSgt Folden attended a planning conference in Qatar, SSgt Kral followed up going in ADVON to finalize planning. SSgt Ellis, Sgt Lunson and Doc Lynch then rolled in to provide support to the Battalion Landing Team and some specialized demolition training to some Special Forces regional partners and Force Recon Marines. I headed off to Djibouti to do some planning and escape the mind numbing flight operation support where nothing usually happens. SSgt Folden, SSgt Brewer, Sgt Fetter, Sgt (The Nick) Conlon and HM3 Torres had some excitement while covering flight operations; great job all around. SSgt Kral attended the Gulf Air Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix race. SSgt Folden, Sgt Fetter and HM2 Baust went ashore and supported our Horn of Africa Navy EOD brethren in Djibouti, and provided support to BLT 1/1. SSgt Ellis, Sgt Lunson and Doc Lynch headed off to Kuwait to support BLT 1/1 while they conducted sustainment training. While there, they worked with Army EOD and disposed of over 12,000lbs of unserviceable ordnance. SSgt Kral headed off to conduct planning of a Navy Central Command Theater Security Exercise. SSgt Ellis, Sgt Lunson and Doc Lynch headed into Djibouti to support BLT 1/1 training there. SSgt Brewer and HM2 Baust joined SSgt Kral to carry out the exercise with Special Forces EOD regional partners. Training focused on building EOD skills and interoperability between our nations. In addition to EOD skills HM2 Baust provided classes on first aid and blast injuries. The exercise culminated with live fire of specialized explosive charges. The EOD section is currently preparing for the next training mission that will encompass bilateral demolitions training, EOD skills sustainment, range sweeps, support to BLT 1/1 and disposal of unserviceable ordnance. And, as always, the EOD teams are on constant duty for any circumstance where they may be needed, from standing mission drills which SSgt Folden, SSgt Brewer, Sgt Fetter and HM2 Baust participate in regularly to Force protection.





## CLB-13 Marines and Sailors on BOXER





## Sergeant Hones Logistics Unit's Killing Power

Written by Sergeant Joel Peters



Sergeant Mike Roberts is hard to miss. If you spend any amount of time on the USS COMSTOCK's flight deck you'll see him running his Marines through a rigorous physical fitness program or further developing their weapons handling skills. "It's like a flame that burns within me" Roberts says of his desire to train his Marines. When speaking with Sergeant Roberts, the Military Police Detachment Chief, his fervor for the training and development of combat skills is evident. Lately, Sergeant Roberts has broadened his stroke and begun instructing the entire Battalion on the Combat Marksmanship Program (CMP). "He wanted to get out there and touch more lives. He's got so much knowledge in that head of his and he's just been so excited to get out there and make this unit capable of completely annihilating anyone that stands in our way" commented Sergeant Joel Peters, also a Military Policeman. From the look of the targets after each range, Sergeant Roberts is doing just that.

Sergeant Roberts, originally from Kansas City, Kansas is somewhat of an enigma. In passing conversation he comes across as easy-going and polite. "He's a very kind and considerate person" says Lance Corporal Oscar Miramontes. However, in addition to his affable and somewhat jovial nature, Sergeant Roberts possesses the tools and attitude necessary to defeat any threat that attempts to impede his and his unit's mission to keep forward units supplied with everything they need to take the fight to our Nation's enemies. A veteran of two deployments to Iraq where he shadowed the British Marines through Basra with 1/2 Charlie CAAT, he is a veritable treasure trove of knowledge about the darker side of Man's nature. "Killing is never a palatable thing. It's something I wish we didn't have to do, but there are people in this world that force us to make that decision to pull the trigger. I'm the one making sure every one of our Marines is prepared to do that" Roberts comments quietly, his eyes burning through the wall in front of him.



The Combat Marksmanship Program is something the Marine Corps takes very seriously and spares no expense in participating in. Every Marine in every deployable unit has or will take part in the program. The methods taught focus on gross muscle movements and the principles reinforced have been combat-tested in the mountains of Afghanistan and the sands of Iraq. "We keep it simple. When you get all riled up your body can begin to work against you. If you've got a group of filthy insurgents storming your peace, you've got to be able to react and put those dudes in the dirt, man" Roberts explains to a group of doe-eyed Marines hanging on his every word. Sergeant Roberts finishes speaking with the Marines and commands them to take their firing positions. The next two hours are filled with the cracks of the rifles and the smell of gunpowder sweeping across the flight deck. Each shot brings the Marines on the firing line closer to optimum lethality.



For the rest of the deployment, Sergeant Roberts plans to continue setting the Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 13 up for success. "It's very important to me that these Marines learn and develop these skills. They mean a lot to me, both the skills and the Marines" Roberts says while coordinating the next day's range. Hours of planning go into each range but it is obvious that no amount of work is too much for the Sergeant. His eyes dance across the screen of his laptop computer where he is currently designing a more challenging course of fire for the Marines. One can imagine that he is not actually seeing letters and numbers on the computer screen, but seeing the future battles fought and won by the Marines he's trained. When interviewed about the training, one Marine who asked to remain anonymous whispered in a darkened passageway "He's something special. That much is true. I just hope I never let him down." As of this writing, another group of exhausted Marines was wrapping up their day's training. Their faces blackened by powder, some sporting burns on their necks from ejected brass shells, but all of them are smiling broadly. Each increasingly more confident in their ability to employ their weapon if the mission called for it.

## ELECTRO-OPTICAL ORDNANCE REPAIRMAN: Providing a Better Sight to the Battlefield

USS NEW ORLEANS – When Marines are conducting operations, it is important they are able to see, especially when it is dark or in smoky conditions. One Marine, assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 13, has this responsibility, assisting Marines to see on the battlefield. Sergeant Felix A. Cervantes is an Electro-Optical Ordnance Repairman, one of four in the Maintenance Detachment of CLB-13, who works hard to keep Marines' optics operational aboard USS NEW ORLEANS. "My job is the repair of all optical gear. Anything that you can sight through on a weapon or vehicle," said Cervantes from Crown Point, Ind. "We can work on rifle scopes, thermo imagery on rifles, and a variety of missile systems."



Cervantes said he has a broad range of responsibilities with all the different types of optics on the many weapon systems carried by Marines. "We help out everyone across the Battalion Landing Team. Anything that's optical, damaged, broken or that needs to be looked at, they all come to us," said Cervantes. "The Marines need to see what they are aiming in at and that's what we do, most of our operations are done at night so you can see how important it is to have working gear." Cervantes said the Marine Corps has new gear coming out all the time, and that every quarter it seems as if his job field is giving classes on new gear that has potential to be sent to them. "We also go and inspect the new gear to give our approval before it is fielded to the Marines," said Cervantes.

With almost six years in the Marine Corps, Cervantes enjoys what he does. He joined the Marine Corps to do the very thing he is doing, fixing optical gear. "When I came in I wanted to do something electrical and something with maintenance," said Cervantes. "I'm happy with what I do." Sgt. Mark Greene, Assistant Maintenance Chief with the Amphibious Assault Vehicle Platoon attached to BLT 1/1, 13th MEU, said Cervantes is a great asset to support the Battalion. "We have been working with him since February of 2008, during our work-up cycles," said Greene from Black Mountain, N.C. "He would come down and test our M36E3 sights before we use them. He not only is an asset to us, but to the other units that uses optic capabilities." Cervantes says to him, it is important to be that go-to guy. He wants to be the person they call when nobody else can fix the problem. "He is the guy to go to—he has the knowledge to take care of the equipment," said Greene. "If you have an issue, he is the man to talk to." Greene said he has the reassurance of knowing the equipment is going to work if Cervantes worked on it.

"When it comes to detailed work on the [weapon] sight he is the guy who has the know-how to take care of it," Green said. "We can't shoot unless we have someone like him to take care of our sights - he is a big asset to us. I wouldn't want to go to anyone else but him."



## CLB-13 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



### LESSONS FROM AFRICA

*"The Lord himself watches over you! The Lord stands beside you as your protective shade" (Psalm 121:5).*

I have a new understanding of this verse after our experience in Djibouti, Africa. Here are some other lessons of appreciation I learned:

The Lord is our shelter -- like camouflage netting and a Battalion Aid Station (BAS).

In a scorching hot environment, you appreciate any shade you can find – and the few little trees in Djibouti weren't exactly shade trees. Any opportunity to find refuge under some camouflage netting was much appreciated. I was also grateful the Corpsman allowed me to use their BAS tent to cool down, rest, and recoup before going back out into the sun. I thanked God for cami netting and a tent with some cool air!

The Lord brings refreshment like water and the wind.

In that parched land it seemed like you just couldn't get enough water in your body. But THANK GOD there was water available: The engineers operated the purification system at the beach and the "water bull" was a life-giving fixture in the camp. Besides a water source and shade, the other thing you were very thankful for was a breeze. You especially realized what a blessing it was when it temporarily went away!

The Lord gives us our daily bread – even in an MRE.

When you are hot, tired and hungry, you're not too particular about what you eat; you're just thankful to have some food! And there was plenty for each day. We did not have to hunt or beg for it like too many people in the world do.

Dear CLB family, I pray the Lord will be *your* shelter, refreshment and provider during the heat of these financially difficult times. May this deployment help us all be more thankful to God for His care for us. Amen!

*"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'...Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:31-33).*

"Chaps" Reeves Flint



## CLB-13 WARRIORS ON THE USS NEW ORLEANS (LPD 18)

SSgt Schicke	SSgt Ellis	SSgt Kral
SSgt Valdez	Sgt Cervantes	Sgt Lunson
Sgt Hedgecock	Sgt Martin	Sgt Reyes
Sgt Vigarino	Cpl Arnold	Cpl Ayala
Cpl Cardona	Cpl Carranza	Cpl Hancock
Cpl Ledesma	HM3 Lynch	LCpl King
Cpl Medina, Jr	LCpl Merritt	Cpl Morales
Cpl Neeley	Cpl Paine II	Cpl Schuh
Cpl Seth	Cpl Tillotson	Cpl Webber
Cpl Tomlinson	Cpl Washington	



## 13TH MEU UPCOMING SCHEDULE JUNE-OCTOBER 2009

7-9 Jun	"Early Redeployers" return to home from Middle East.
Late Jun	13th MEU begins eastward transit towards home.
Jun – mid Jul	Port Calls in Pacific on way home.
25Jun—5Jul	"Quartering Parties" return home (com. air from port calls)
TBD 22-23/24 Jul	Port Call in Honolulu, Hawaii. *departure from Hawaii will be either PM 23 Jul or AM 24 Jul
22-24 Jul	"Advance Parties" return home (military air from Hawaii)
<b>23/24 -31 Jul</b>	<b>Transit Hawaii to San Diego (Tiger Cruise)</b> (Tiger Cruise info available separately)
<b>30-31 Jul</b>	<b>Off-load from ships to home stations/bases</b> (specific schedule TBD, including surface and air off-load into Camp Pendleton, ACE fly-off, etc.)
<b>1 Aug</b>	<b>Ships return to port in San Diego</b> (may shift to PM 31 Jul)
1-3 Aug	<b>Welcome Home 72 hour liberty period.</b> *liberty expires at 1200 on 4 Aug
<b>mid-Aug—mid Sept</b>	<b>CLB-13 Block Leave Periods.</b>
4-7 Aug	Work: off-load ships pierside and set up facilities.
8-11 Aug	<b>Welcome Home 96 hour liberty period.</b>
12-14 Aug	Work: off-load ships pierside and set up facilities.
17-31 Aug	Close out actions to de-composite 13th MEU
<b>31 Aug</b>	<b>2008-09 edition of 13th MEU dissolved</b> (BLT/ACE/CLB and CE attachments return to parent units)
5-8 Sep	<b>I MEF Labor Day 96 hour liberty period</b> (1200 4 Sep to 1200 9 Sep)
11 Sep	HMM-163 Change of Command
<b>18 Sep</b>	<b>CLB-13 Change of Command</b>
9 Oct	BLT 1/1 Change of Command

**\*\*Please understand that the above schedule is subject to change based upon missions assigned to the 13th MEU and forces outside of our control.**

Congratulations to the Ortiz, Arnold, Mayes, Miles/Diaz and Wheeler families on the arrival of our newest members of the CLB-13 family:

**IT'S A BOY!**



**Rhialani Taliyah Ortiz, 4 May**  
**Hannah Glory Arnold, 9 May**  
**Kaden Robert Mayes, 12 May**  
**Railey Marie Diaz, May 16th**  
**Haley Dawn Wheeler, 29 May**

We look forward to seeing these healthy babies in the near future.



**IT'S A GIRL!**